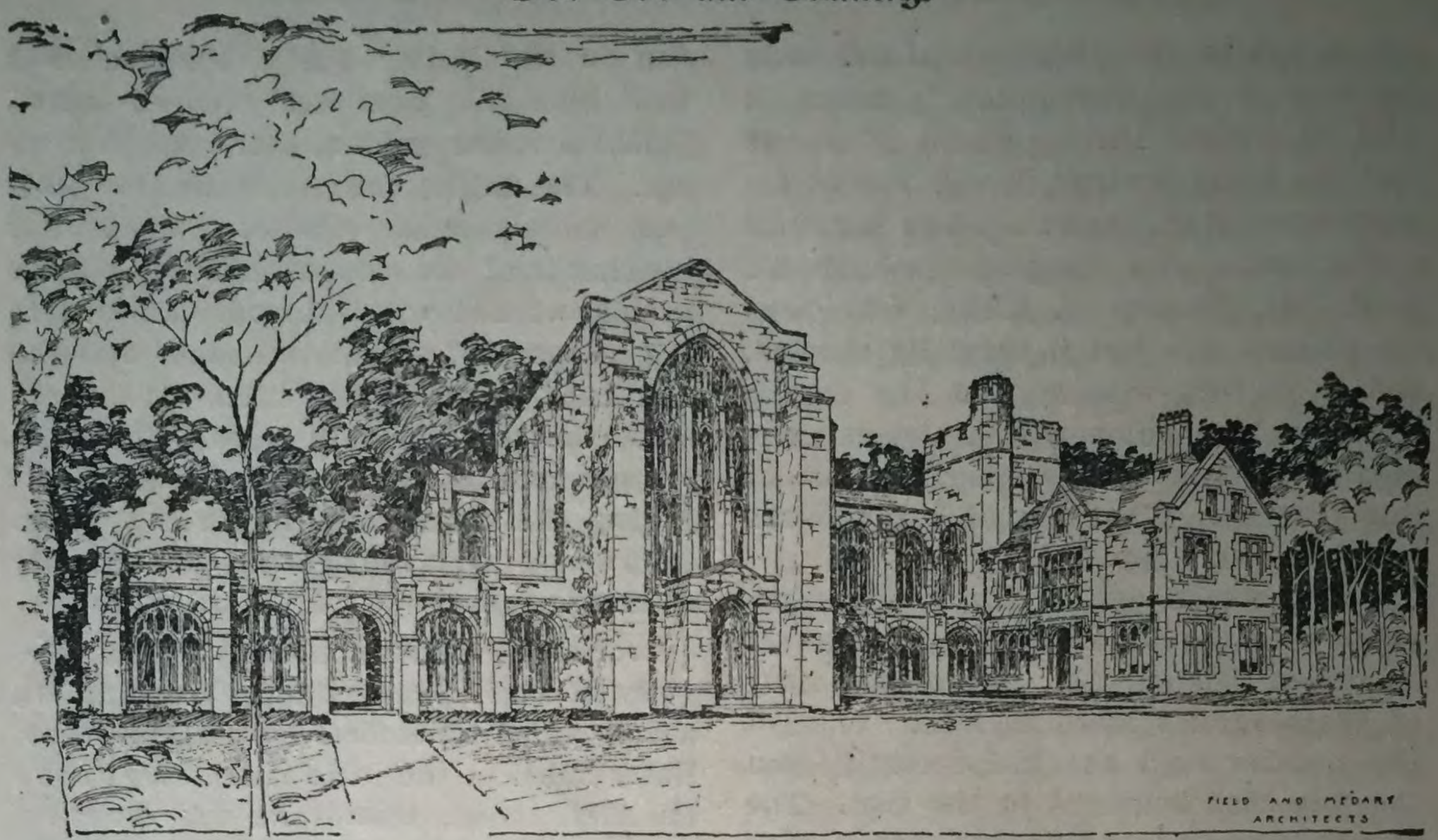
"For God and Country."



Cloister of the Colonies. Washington Memorial Chapel. Patriots' Hall. Tower and Rectory.

"No spot on earth—not the plains of Marathon, nor the passes of Sempach, nor the place of the Bastile, nor the dykes of Holland, nor the moors of England—is so sacred in the history of the struggle for human liberty as Valley Forge."

—CYRUS TOWNSEND BRADY.

The Washington Chapel Chronicle

Valley Forge.

A RECORD OF RELIGION AND PATRIOTISM.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE WASHINGTON CHAPEL GUILD.

MISS EMMA W. CRAWFORD, Editor. MRS. ROBERT WOOD, Business Manager

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Washington's Headquarters Flag.

THE STANDARD OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

By W. Herbert Burk.

Copyright, 1910. By W. Herbert Burk.

Among the paintings exhibited in Independence Hall, Philadelphia, is a large portrait of Washington by Charles Willson Peale. It is a three quarters length portrait of the Commander in Chief, in uniform. In the background troops are marching, those to the right bearing a flag, while still another is on a fort on the extreme right. From the fact that the men wear blue coats, white waistcoats and white breeches, I take it that they are the Life Guard, the only variant being the facings, which are buff instead of white.

An interesting feature of the picture is the flag. This is of light blue with a star in the center, the only part of the design on the flag that can be distinguished with certainty. Heretofore, no one has been able to identify it nor the flag in the picture described by Mr. Gherardi Davis.

In his supplement to his valuable

monograph on the "Regimental Colors in the War of the Revolution," says: "I wish to correct the statement at p. 19 that the Peale portrait, which was at Independence Hall, shows a white flag with a blue union, over General Washington's head. Mr. Thomas E. Kirby, who owns the picture, has had it carefully cleaned, and it is very evident that the flag is merely a blue union with thirteen six-pointed stars, as in the other replicas of this portrait. What flag this represents is not known. (pp. 13, 14.)

A few weeks ago I was telling some visitors to the Valley Forge Museum of American History the interesting story of Washington's Marquee when one of the number said she had recently seen the flag that belonged to the tent. The clue thus given was quickly followed with the result that to-day the flag is on exhibition with the famous war tent.

The owner of the flag, Miss Frances B. Lovell, recognized the advantage of exhibiting the flag with the tent, especially when so carefully guarded as at the Museum. She readily agreed to loan the flag, and for this purpose had it framed.

Miss Lovell is a descendant of Betty Lewis, Washington's sister, whose fine old house is one of the most distinguished landmarks of Fredericksburg. She traces her descent by the following lines:

Frances B. Lovell is the daughter of Howell Lewis Lovell, granddaughter of Betty Washington Lewis Lovell, great-granddaughter of Howell Lewis, and the great-great-granddaughter of Betty Washington Lewis, the only sister of George Washington.

For years the flag has been a treasured heirloom in Miss Lovell's family, and few have known of its existence. Upon her father's death she became its owner It was known to the family as "Washington's Headquarters Flag." That it is the unidentified flag of Peale's portraits there can be no doubt. The flag of one picture is a blue jack with thirteen stars. The flag in the Valley Forge Museum is a light blue silk jack with thirteen stars, the blue faded and the stars yellow with age. The flag is thirty-six inches long and twenty-eight inches wide. The heading is of home-spun linen, with three eyelets worked with thread. The stars are six-pointed, double stitched, and the silk back of them has been cut out to show the stars on both sides. The stars are not arranged in a circle, but lines following the crosses of the British flag. This seems to have been the earlier mode of arrangement.

Professor Balderston, in telling the story of Betsy Ross, says: "Washington, accompanied by Robert Morris and Geo. Ross, called at the little upholstery shop on Arch street, where she was carrying on the business in which her husband and herself had been engaged, and asked her if she could make a flag. She said that she had never made one, but that she could try. They, thereupon, produced a design, rather roughly drawn. She examined the design, and, noticing that the stars were six-pointed, suggested that they should be made with five points. The gentlemen agreed with her that five points would look better, but that the six-pointed star would be easier to make. She then showed them how a five-pointed star could be made with a single clip of the scissors. General Washington then and there changed the sketch, and the three gentlemen left. Soon after a new design was sent to her, colored by William Barrett, a painter of some note. She thereupon set to work to make the sample flag, which was soon completed and approved. (The Evolution of the American Flag, pp. 47, 48.)

"It has been asked," says Preble, "why the stars on our banners are five-pointed, while those on our coins are six-pointed. The answer is that the designer of our coins followed the English, and the designer of our flag the French custom. In England heraldic language the star has six points; in the heraldry of Holland,

France and Germany, the star is five-pointed."

While we may not be able to decide whether heraldry or practicability, the college of heralds or the scissors of Betsy Ross, determined the number of points for the stars of the American flag, we know as a matter of fact that the contemporary artists, Trumbull and Peale, the soldier-artists of the Revolution, have left their testimony to the existence of both. In the picture of Washington which he presented to Princeton College, Peale has painted the stars with five points. In those in the Metropolitan Museum and in Independence Hall the stars have six points. The artists differ in the arrangement of the stars. Peale generally, if not universally, represents the stars as arranged in a circle, while Trumbull invariably paints them as following the lines of the crosses.

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This latter is the arrangement of the Headquarters' Flag.

On the 8th of February, 1776, Colonel Gadsden, a member of the Marine Committee, presented to Congress "an elegant standard, such as is to be used by the commander in chief of the American navy; being a yellow flag with a lively representation of a rattlesnake in the middle in the attitude of going to strike, and these words underneath, 'Don't tread on me.' Congress ordered that the said standard be carefully preserved and suspended in the congress room."

But what was the standard of the commander in chief of the army? Had he no distinctive flag?

None has been described. We know what the standard of the Life Guard was, although the flag itself perished some years ago. Now after long years the standard of the commander in chief of the army comes to light, to answer for itself, and to illuminate the history of another flag, the President's. The President's flag is described as the "union flag or jack, viz., a blue, rectangular flag studded with a constellation of white stars equal in number to the states of the union." That there is a connection between this flag and that in the Valley Forge Museum no one can doubt. The stars have increased with the multiplication of States, but its field is the same and its charges are the same. The symbol that told of the presence and authority of the commander in chief of the army of the thirteen States proclaims to-day the presence and authority of the President of the great Republic. The mediaeval artists painted the distinctive symbols to make the beholder know the saint portrayed, and Peale in the same spirit, but with less necessity, has painted the flag of the commander in chief in connection with Washington. On the tented field its blue field and white stars floated above the commander's marquee, and on the painted canvas the soldier-artist has imprinted its memory. In time men forgot its meaning, but now after a century and more the flag and the marquee, the united symbols of power make clear the painter's meaning and stir anew the patriot's fervor.

Two finely made rifles have been given to the Museum by Mrs. Margaret McLean. That owned by her husband was carried by him to California by the way of Cape Horn in 1849. It has evidently been altered from a flint lock to percussion. The present lock bears the name of Birch. The second rifle has the flint lock, bearing the name of J. Henry Boulton. This was owned by Mr. James McLean, of Summit Hill, Pa. Both rifles are beautifully made, with stocks inlaid with brass.

The Rummage Sale was a great success, adding sixty dollars to the treasury of the Guild.

Washington Memorial Chapel.

Valley Forge, Pa.

THE REV. W. HERBERT BURK
MINISTER IN CHARGE,
ALL SAINTS RECTORY, NORRISTOWN.

Mr. Frank Quigg, Treasurer,
Port Kennedy, Pa.
Mr. Leslie Jefferis,
Treasurer of the Building Fund,
Bridgeport, Pa.
William Rumford, Sexton.

Sundays.

2.30 P. M. Sunday School and Bible Classes.

3.45 P. M. Service and Sermon.

Second Sunday of the month, 10.30 A. M. Service, Sermon and Holy Communion.

Stewart Fund Hall

Sundays.

10.00 A. M. Sunday School and Bible Classes.

11.00 A. M. Service and Sermon.

Calendar.

JULY.

17. Eighth Sunday after Trinity.
21. 8 P. M., Congregational Meeting.
24. Ninth Sunday after Trinity.
25. St. James the Apostle.
31. Tenth Sunday after Trinity.

AUGUST.

6. The Transfiguration.
   3.45 P. M., Service and Sermon.
7. Eleventh Sunday after Trinity.
14. Twelfth Sunday after Trinity.
   10.30 A. M., Service, Sermon and Holy Communion.
   3.45 P. M., Service and Sermon.

An important meeting of the Congregation will be held on Thursday evening, July 21, at eight o'clock. All members of the congregation are urged to be present.

Our Confirmation Class.

The following were confirmed at the Chapel on May 27th, by the Rt. Rev. Frederick Joseph Kinsman, D. D.: Mary Emily Andrews, Ruth L. Epright, Stanley Espenship, Francis Fenimore, Emily Louisa (Coats) Hallman (Mrs. Samuel), Helen Augusta Kellogg, Laura Mae Lund, S. Col. Summerill, Hettie (Benner) Summerill (Mrs. S. Col.), William Stephens, Franklin Fisher Vanderslice, Charles Wells Walker, Esther Franklin Fisher Wheatland, and for All Saints' Church, Norristown, Stanley Webb Dull.

The Sunday school picnic was held on Saturday, June 25th, and was a most delightful affair. Unfortunately, the Auxiliary School at King-of-Prussia was not represented. The All Saints' School came from Norristown in four coaches and another was provided for the Chapel School. This went to Valley Forge and Port Kennedy for the scholars. The coaches did not come directly to the Chapel, but went over the outer line boulevard, enabling the children to visit the Hospital Hut and the Old School House. Long tables had been arranged in the grove, and these were most tastefully set with the china and silver of the parish. Games and sports were enjoyed by all, and later in the afternoon, after the ice cream had been served, the whole party drove over the boulevards, visiting Washington's Headquarters.

Please report all cases of illness to the Rev. Mr. Burk. His telephone number is 897 D, Norristown. No arrangements for funerals or weddings should be made without consulting him, as he often has engagements that cannot be broken. This will avoid disappointment.

"That little village clustered at the bottom of a ravine gave a name to what as time goes on bids fair to be the most celebrated encampment in the world."

Sir George Otto Trevelyan.

The Washington Memorial Library.

AUTHORS' PRESENTATION COPIES.

Only two authors have added to our Collection of Autograph Presentation Copies, since our last report, but these are Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, (Mrs. Herbert D. Ward), and Virginia Bioren Harrison (Mrs. Charles Frederic Harrison). Mrs. Ward has sent that charming story of "Jonathan and David," so full of human interest and real pathos, and Mrs. Harrison has contributed "A Whisper of Destiny and other Poems." Most of these poems have appeared in Scribner's, the Independent, and other magazines, but fortunately have been given a more permanent form. We are hoping for space in which to exhibit this interesting collection of books, which is already representative of American letters.

Mrs. McLean has given to the Library a Bible owned by Margaret Sinclair and a Prayer Book of the United Church of England and Ireland, printed in Edinburgh in 1815 and brought to this country by Jane Sinclair Martin.

Pews of the Patriots.

THE COL. JOHN NIXON PEW.

One hundred and thirty-four years after the Declaration of Independence was first publicly read there was placed in the Washington Memorial Chapel a pew commemorating this event. On the 5th of July Congress had resolved that the Declaration of Independence should be read to the army and to the people. In Philadelphia Colonel John Nixon was selected for this honor, and on July 8th, standing upon the platform erected in the State House yard for the observation of Venus, "the awful platform," as John Adams called it, he read the Declaration.

Mrs. Charles Custis Harrison, the wife of the Provost of the University of Pennsylvania, has added this interesting memorial to the Chapel. It bears the Nixon arms and the following inscriptions:

To the Glory of God
and in Memory of
Colonel John Nixon
1733—December 21, 1808
who first publicly read the
Declaration of Independence
July 8, 1776
Commanded the Third Battalion
Philadelphia Associators
in the Battle of Princeton
Shared the Sufferings at
Valley Forge
and served this country as
Soldier, Statesman and Financier.

This Pew is the Gift
of his Great Granddaughter
Ellen Waln Harrison,
1909.

The Fourth at the Chapel.

The Independence Day celebration at the Chapel took the form of a service at five o'clock in the afternoon and a supper for the choristers. The Rev. Mr. Burk conducted the service and preached the sermon. His theme was the message of the Liberty Bell.

The Choir Supper was served immediately after the service, a long table being set in the parish house and most attractively furnished. Mrs. Charles M. Burk was the hostess of the occasion, and spared no effort to make the guests of honor enjoy themselves. After the supper the whole party drove over the boulevards in a large coach, and then viewed the fireworks in Phoenixville, Norristown and points along the Main Line from the Mount Joy Observatory.

The Rev. Francis T. H. Finn spent part of his vacation at his former home near King-of-Prussia. Much to the regret of his many friends he was unable to accept the rector's invitations to take part in the services of July third and fourth.

History of the Valley Forge.

BY HENRY WOODMAN.

From Norristown Herald, July 10. 1850.
From the Bucks County Intelligencer.

LETTER V.

[CONCLUDED.]

The following morning the rain had ceased and the weather was clear and serene, but all was hurry and confusion, occasioned by removing property from Valley Forge. Upon one of the rafts constructed for the occasion they were ferried over and safely landed on their own side of the water, not more than two miles from home. Soon after they crossed over they saw Col. Dewees hurrying to cross over the river, momentarily expecting the enemy; and Col. Lee was stationed here to guard the stores in company with Col. Hamilton, busily engaged in moving them away.

Passing on their journey towards home, near the foot of the hill mentioned in my second letter, at the junction of the Gulf and Baptist roads, hearing a noise in the woods on their right, my mother looking in that direction, saw coming towards them a body of British cavalry, moving in the most perfect order, their horses being so trained that they made but little noise in their march. In their front, in company with an officer, rode a guide or pilot whom she knew, but who shall, in this description be nameless; one of whom, if report be true, was often engaged in similar expeditions during the war. They passed on without noticing or molesting them, except that an officer left his station, rode up to them and enquired of them whether they had been at Valley Forge and seen Col. Dewees and whether they were removing the military stores? Receiving from her an affirmative answer he took his leave and resumed his station in the company, who proceeded on to the river, but not by the direct road, and found Col. Dewees on a raft crossing over to the other side of the river. They fired upon them, killed the Colonel's horse, but did no further injury to any of the company. Cols. Lee and Hamilton each made a hasty retreat from the place in different directions, and the men engaged on the occasion, precipitately fled from the enemy when they saw them approaching. Some carbines were fired after them but none took any effect. The place being thus left to the mercy of the enemy, they set fire to the buildings in which the stores were deposited, the forge and all the buildings appertaining to it—all of which, with their contents, were destroyed. While these things were in progress at Valley Forge, our travellers arrived safely at home, fondly hoping that their perils were at an end. But this hope was short lived, for in a few minutes after their arrival three Hessians, armed with daggers, were seen approaching the house, which they soon entered and began to plunder of whatever valuable things they could lay hold of. In my next I shall give a detail of this unceremonious visit. In the residue of this I shall confine myself to such matters as relate (as my mother called it) to her journey "to hunt Jehu." One of the Hessians saw their saddles, which upon being taken off the horses were placed in the sun to dry. He inquired in broken English, whose they were; she replied, mine. He then drew his dagger and exclaimed in a rage, as nearly as could be understood: "You rebel, you have been to see Washington," but offered no further signs of violence. Some little time after they withdrew she heard the sounds of military music and looking in the direction from whence it came, saw a large number of British soldiers approaching the house. When they came opposite they made a halt and an officer came to her and inquired whether Thomas Waters lived there. She said no. His next inquiry was where he lived; she pointed to the place, it being on the next farm. He then asked if she would sell him a loaf of bread. She told him she would and then brought him one. "Look at me," said he, "that you may know me again;

after we go to Thomas Waters's we will come back and I will then pay you. We expect to encamp there for the night and return this way." He then joined the company, who proceeded on their march, but he never came back to pay for the loaf of bread, and she, with the rest of the family, were glad to escape with no greater loss.

Thus ended the four eventful days of my mother's journey to hunt Jehu. To some these things may seem a fiction, but it is nevertheless an unvarnished truth, and there are now living in the borough of Doylestown several persons of respectability who have heard her relate the circumstances mentioned in this narrative, particularly the account of her journey.

It may not be improper to state in this place, in relation to the burning of the Valley Forge, Colonel Caleb North, since Sheriff of the city and county of Philadelphia, informed me thirty-nine years after the event, that he saw the conflagration from the top of Mount Joy, near the place. He, in company with Colonel Alexander Hamilton, had been sent to the place—Hamilton to join Lee in the removal of the stores, and he to watch incognito, the movements of the British army in the neighborhood.

In my next, I shall give an account more fully of the Hessians' visit to my grandfather's and the sequel of the march of the British to Thomas Waters's, who was marked as one of their objects of persecution, on account of his being father-in-law to Colonel Dewees, whose family were at this time at the place.

The Rev. James W. Riddle has published a Valley Forge Guide and Handbook. The first section of the book is devoted to telling "What to see in Park and Village," while the second section contains interesting notes gleaned from Weedon's Orderly Book and other sources. These give in a brief form just such information as the visitor will find helpful to an appreciation of the life and incidents of the camp. The hand-book, which is from the press of the J. B. Lippincott Company, is well printed and illustrated.

A VALLEY FORGE ORDERLY BOOK.

Printed by Courtesy of Its late Owner Mr. George Clifford Thomas.

The officers in the Virgina Line are to be assertain the Number of men Whose Term of Inlistment will expire Shortly—It Being Impossible for the Surgion of the Flying Hospital to make Effectual provision for the sick out of Camp, unless they are sent to the places by them Appointed & furnished for the purpose.—All officers And Regiemental surgions when any of their Corps are proper Subjects for the Hospital, are therefore Immediately to apply to the Chief surgion of the flying Hospital, present in Camp and take his directions Where to send their sick.—A Contrary practice has been attended with Great Inconvinience and probably Occationed the death of several men many having Been sent to Hospitals already crowded wth Patients or to places where no provision had been made for the Sick,—and in order that the Sick which from time to time Remain in Camp as well as Others before they are sent to the Hospital may be properly taken care of the director Genl. of the Genl. Hospital is as Soon as possible to furnish The Regiemental Surgions with Medicine Chests supply with such Medicine of Which are Necessary in Camp.—When flaggs go to the Enemies Lines all officers are positively Forbid to go with them unless they Receive proper orders therefor—At a Genl. Court Martial whereof Colo. Clark was president Held Jany. 19th Lieut. McGibeoney of the fourth North Carolina Regiement Tryed for embezzling of Misspending Money with Which he was Intrusted for Inlisting men into the

Service also for taking Bribes to discharge Inlisted Soldiers from the Services, was Unanimously Acquitted of the Charge.—At the same Court Held Jany. 13th Capt. Joshua Brown of Colo. Bigalows Regt. Tryed for Suffering two prisoners to escape from the Provost Gaurd, was Unanimously Acquitted of the Charge Exhibited against him the Commander in Chief approves the Sentence & orders them to be Immediately Relas'd from their Arrest.

Head Qrs. Valley Forge Jany. 22d 1778
Major Gen.....Tomorrow.....Green
Brigadier .... Varnum
Field officers...Lt. Colo. Ballard Lt. Colo. Bassett
Brigade Major.....Minis
Field officers for Fatague...Colo. Rich.
Butter Lt. Colo. Carlton And Major Hull.——

Head Quarters Valley Forge Jany. 23, 1778
Major Gel....Tomorrow..Lord Starling
Brigadier.....Huntington
Field officers.....Lt. Colo. Bigalow Major Haws
Brigade Major.....Clairburn

The Genl. officers and officers Commanding Brigades Will meet to-morrow morning at 10 OClock, at Genl. Sullivan's Quarters for the purpose Mention'd in the Genl. Orders the 20th Inust.—Sergt. How is appointed Provost Martial PT Vice Capt. Paragg Resign'd.—The Brigadiers and officers Commanding Brigades are Immediately To make Returns of the deficiency of the Bayonetts in Their Respective Brigades to the Adjt. Genel.—As several Farmers have Complained notwithstanding The Certificates Granted by the Commissary General of Forrage of their Having furnished their Quota of forrage Assigned them.—Further demand have been made Upon them so as to deprive them of what was Reserv'd for the Use of their Familys. The Genl. Strictly Prohibitts Such unjust proceedings and desires that more Respect May be paid to the forage Masr. Genls. Certificates for The future.—At a Genl. Court Martial whereof Lt. Colo. Clark was president held the 20th Jany. . . . Lieut. Colo. Lynly and Major Bailey Tryed for non Attendance On the Grand Parade in proper time, The former when Field officer of the day & the Latter when Brigade Major of the day.—Found Guilty of the Charges Exhibited against Them being a Breach of Article 5th & Section 10th of The Articles of War . . . . . , and Sentenced to be Reprimanded in Genl. orders.—The Genl. Approves the Sentence and is Surprized that he is under the disagreeable Necessity of Reprimanding officers for a Breach of duty so well known, and which Ought to be performed With the Greatest punctuality.—And as exact Discipline and the strictest Obedience to orders is the Sole of an Army and foundation of success whilst the Countrary may be productive of the most fatal Consequences, He flatters himself that every officer Is in duty bound will be Emulous to pay the Strictest Attention to orders and prove Examplary to the Soldiers.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

The Norristown Herald gives the following appreciative review of the Rev. Mr. Burk's new edition of his Valley Forge Guide:

Valley Forge Guide.

Giving History and Topography of the Colonial Camp Ground, Published by Rev. W. H. Burk.

Rev. W. Herbert Burk, rector of All Saints' Church, Norristown, and founder of Washington Memorial Chapel, Valley Forge, has just issued a new edition of his historical and topographical guide to Valley Forge.

The 142 pages, which are attractively bound in blue, are crammed full of information that, if read and kept in mind, will make a visit to the historic camp-grounds instructive as well as pleasurable.

Valley Forge is a pretty place to visit but the visitor can get but a faint idea of what really is to be seen there unless he has "The Valley Forge Guide" of Mr. Burk. There is an illustration on almost every page.

Mrs. Jesse Y. Burk has given a necklace worn at the reception of Marquis Lafayette in Philadelphia, 1824.